



Meeting Agenda & Minutes

Date: April 2, 2025
Time: 1800-2100
Location: Clubhouse Bar & Restaurant
Recorded by: Rachael Ours
Attendees: A Nemet, A Luddy, B Catalde, D Schumacher, G Duchini, J Martin, M Harrington, P Markiewicz, R Ours, T Miodus, L Larsen, A Larsen, T Dylewski, N Pagliari, R Herrman

Objective

The purpose of the Erie Youth Hockey Association is to instruct the youth of Erie and the surrounding communities in the skills associated with the game of hockey and the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for others.

Agenda

Standing items

1. Approval of minutes
 - a. Discussion: None
 - b. Motion and second: P Markiewicz, D Schumacher
 - c. Vote & result - approval of February minutes
 - Approve: all
 - Reject: none
 - Abstain: none
2. Open Forum:
 - a. Nick Pagliari: NP spoke about EYHA's house and house select programs. The first item was practice times. While the challenge of ice for all of EYHA's teams was acknowledged, NP stated the assigned practice times of 5pm on Fridays and 8pm on Mondays were not really conducive to getting kids to show up for practice, making it challenging to coach and unfortunately the best opportunity for teaching occurred during the games, which was not ideal. AL asked if games were better attended, and NP said yes, often because the games were weekend mornings. BC asked if house teams would be agreeable to a price increase as some of the better ice slots do come at a higher price. Next suggestion was for EYHA to do more marketing over the summer for the house programs to expand and fill the program. The board agreed that this is a great idea and will work to do more social media posts regarding the program



and open registration earlier to try to improve participants. NP inquired about what the budget was for each house select team as he was told by SD that they were “over budget by \$400”. No one was aware of what the budget was and the board would inquire and follow up on this. Along the budgetary lines, NP asked if select teams were permitted to fundraise, solicit sponsorships/donations to give the players more of the travel feel. The board supported the house select teams doing fundraising just as the travel teams do as long as it fell within guidelines of fundraising. A procedure/policy will be created and shared to standardize fundraising expectations across the organization.

Skills was the next topic and NP inquired if the Otters would be involved with skills again next year. BC explained that this year did not go as planned for a variety of reasons, but expects that with the new coach he seems very invested in EYHA and his wife is also eager to be involved in any capacity. Exact skills coaches for the upcoming season are still to be determined at this time.

- b. Robert Herrman: RH also spoke on behalf of the house programs and inquired about leveraging relationships with the Otters to advertise EYHA and increase visibility to the public, possibly using the scoreboard to advertise, create a QR code, etc. BC shared that the cost to advertise on the scoreboard is quite significant, however EYHA is redoing the 50/50 kiosks and can incorporate additional advertising with those. RH also suggested posting flyers by the vendors and handing out business cards at the 50/50 booths during games with a QR code directing people to the EYHA website to showcase the programs and organization. The board was very appreciative and thought this was an excellent suggestion to implement the upcoming season.

RH also thanked the board for hosting the open meeting, and recommended that there be a coach meeting earlier on in the season as well as at the conclusion of the season. AL expressed that hosting coaches meetings early on and then again mid-season were in his plans

- c. Tom Dylewski:

50/50: The request was to explore a different method for selecting games for each team to staff. One proposed solution was to do a “draft” style for game selection. Both AN and TD stated scheduling conflicts existed throughout the year with both travel & house teams. A possible solution AN offered was to reach out to another team to see if they’d be willing to trade once a scheduling conflict is identified.



A couple common questions encountered while staffing 50/50 were what is the money used for and why does it take so long to receive the payout? In the past, the 50/50 funds were used to pay for skills for the entire organization, with each team being allotted a set amount of money. The payouts over the fall were delayed due to the transition of the treasurer, and also that the Otters release the funds in blocks and is not done game by game. DS sends out the checks promptly upon receipt.

It was also discovered that some volunteers were taking 6 tickets each game as compensation for staffing the booth but then “banking” unused tickets for future events. EYHA pays for each ticket and provides it free of charge to those staffing. In the future, the board may consider ways to ensure this type of diversion of tickets does not occur.

TD expressed gratitude for the board considering offering scholarships for lower income families and recognized the importance of this to help grow the youth participation in the sport. He also expressed how important the “Try Hockey for Free” events are and offered to help coordinate and be present at these events, which is greatly appreciated!

jerseys for select

Locker rooms at EIA: On behalf of Jen, asked to ensure that there is a dedicated/space locker room for the girls that are playing on mixed teams.

Oftentimes Jen was scrambling looking for employees to unlock a space for the girls to change. USA hockey rules state separate locker rooms should be used after 10U.

House and House Select Jersey sizes need more of a variety to ensure a proper fit for all players and they would really enjoy having jerseys that could keep instead of returning at the end of the season, more like the travel teams. AL suggested ordering from Pure Hockey like the travel teams, so socks & jerseys would be the same for travel/house teams. It was pointed out that orders needed to be placed by June (typically) so they would arrive in time for the season, so if additional house players were added to the team throughout the season, there would need to be some blank jerseys purchased and names plated afterwards

3. Member Question & Answer

- a. Discussion: No additional questions were posed.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Discussion: **DS** reported that all Quickbook entries were updated (cost was \$250, discussed & approved via text messages with the board), processes with



Erie Bank are running smoothly as well, 990 is all set. DS recommended clarity and record keeping of plans for fundraising as each team has different plans for fundraising and what they would like to do with the funds from the season. MH suggested to consider prepay for ice as a cost savings initiative if rinks will entertain that. The PA nonprofit registration form is in process. The reimbursement form is outdated and needs to be refreshed as well as providing guidelines for what are reimbursable expenses, current mileage, etc to standardize the processes. Current account balances: Savings: \$446,523.97, Checking: \$51,440.53

5. ADM Director Update

- a. Discussion: AL shared that all but 1 participant was retained from ADM and we have our largest Little Penguins class incoming for the spring with 43 registered. Fortunately there are several volunteer coaches that can help support this huge class on the ice and we're so appreciative of this! The class starts Friday 4/11 at MIC, however AL recommended that moving forward we schedule the last little Pens sessions at EIA for really a fun experience for the kids. TM suggested possibly handing out Jr. Otters tshirts to the kids as they complete the program. Related to Little Penguins, BC shared he attended an event in Pittsburgh representing EYHA and had great conversations and shared the positive feedback the program had about Erie and the number of participants. Asbury invited EYHA to participate in a Spring Fling where we'll have the opportunity to showcase Little Penguins program among others. There are fifteen that currently aged out of ADM are signed up for 10u travel team. AL has shared all materials with TM, in preparation for the May 1st transition. TM shared that of the current Little Pens class, 23 came from our first Timbit session

6. Girls Update

- a. Discussion: **AN** discussed challenges faced with girls teams and is working towards a solution to make sure each player is rostered on a team and hoping to field 3 teams, if possible.
AN also shared updates that were discussed at the last PAHL meeting from April 15, and noted these items will be voted on at the next meeting, May 20. See summary below:
Rules for Consideration: forfeits, goalies (PG/SG), ODSET format, discipline for fighting, injury waiver, curfew/run clock, game changing



Adjusting schedule due to player burnout rate: 10U, 12U playoffs moved up to end of February, March for MIDAM, high school; 4 placement games in September only
Scoring changes, including using Game Sheet for online scoring submission

7. Boys Update

- a. Discussion: **GD** shared that tryouts are underway and going well, updated the verbiage in the tryouts application to state a posting of bib numbers will not occur but the player and/or family will receive an email from the coach. Tryout registration numbers for 14U minor are low, but instead of canceling the ice, will plan to invite all players to the skate, try to recruit additional players to ensure enough skaters to field 2 teams.

8. House Update

- a. Discussion: **PM** briefly shared that playoffs went well and acknowledged all of the points mentioned by NP, TD, RH during the open portion of the meeting and working to expand the house program as much as possible.

Old Business

1. Future Timbits session

- a. Discussion: **AL** shared that the fall little Penguins registration will open likely mid-July and close mid-August. Previous plans for a mid-end of August Timbit would miss the opportunity for this class to transition to a fall Little Pens class. **RO** will work with **Stacey** to secure ice earlier in July. Cost briefly discussed to be \$40 per participant for this session. **RO** will connect with **JS** regarding communication to families, skates, jerseys, etc. **RO** will work with **Ryan** to create flyers and announce registration. **RO** also will email all those who have inquired about subsequent sessions as to when registration will open as a courtesy.

2. Skills sessions (Goalie & Summer clinics): (**BC**)

- a. Discussion: **BC** was able to coordinate with **B. Ferraris** and **R. Zapolski** to offer a 1 week clinic July 21- July 25, Mon-Thurs with 3 sessions, dividing skaters based on experience level. Friday will be for goalies only.
- b. Motion and Second to approve payment of \$4,000 fees for **BF** and **RZ**: **A. Nemet** and **B. Catalde**
- c. Vote & Result - approve fees of \$4,000 for EYHA summer camp with **Ferraris** and **Zapolski**:

approve: all



reject: none

3. 25-26 Season Planning (ALL)

- a. Release for video/roster/website: RO asked DS drafted the proposed language below to be included in registration for all future EYHA events. Discussion occurred via email that recommended removing the check box to opt out and require an email to the secretary to keep track of those who do not wish their child's name/image to be used to ensure no accidental declinations occurred. It was also discussed that the manager of each team would be an ideal person to work with the secretary if any player did opt out of the media release form. RO made the suggested changes and conducted an electronic vote to approve the amended changes.
- b. Motion & second: R. Ours and D. Schumacher to incorporate the media release statement with future registrations
- c. Vote & result - approve media release statement
approve: 5
reject: none
- d. Sample verbiage:

ERIE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant the Erie Youth Hockey Association (EYHA) permission to use my child's name and likeness in a photograph, video, roster, or other digital media in any and all of its publications, including but not limited to social media, website content, newsletters, and promotional materials, without payment or any other consideration.

I understand and agree that all photos will become the property of the EYHA and will not be returned. I also authorize the EYHA to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute these photos for any lawful purpose.

☐ I DO grant permission to EYHA for my child's name and photo to be used.

☐ I DO NOT grant permission for my child's name and photo to be used.

4. CPR/First Aid Training (Final curriculum to be decided prior to 6/1/25)
5. First Aid Kits (to be purchased prior to the 25-26 season)



New Business

1. Scholarship/financial assistance (RO/BC)
 - a. Discussion: Some preliminary discussions regarding qualifications/criteria for scholarship opportunities included FPL as follows for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia in 2025, the federal poverty guidelines are:
 - 1 Person: \$15,650
 - 2 People: \$21,150
 - 3 People: \$26,650
 - 4 People: \$32,150
 - 5 People: \$37,650
 - 6 People: \$43,310AN suggested proof of income would be required and would need to reapply each year to be awarded.
2. Equipment Swap 2025-2026
 - a. Discussion:
3. 4th of July Parade
 - a. Discussion:

Future Business

1. Board member terms & duties
2. Hudl account (AL)
3. House Ideas for 2025 (SD)
 - a. Discussion:
4. Coaching compensation
 - a. Discussion: Very brief discussion regarding compensation. **BC** explained his interpretation of the bylaws as such it is included in the liability section for coaches that are covered by insurance not to receive additional compensation. More time will be dedicated to this topic at the next meeting to give it the proper attention this matter deserves.

Action Items:



Action Items

Assignee	Item	Date Started	Date Due	Status	Comments
DS/PL	Schedule audit of EYHA accounts	Date	Date	Not started	Pending receipt of files from Dan
Scott Dudkiewicz	BLS training for coaches	Dec 3, 2024	Jun 1, 2025	In progress	Will schedule after June 1 once new coaches in place
Scott Dudkiewicz	Purchase first aid kits for all teams (13)	Dec 3, 2024	Jun 1, 2025	Not started	For 25-26 season
SD/RO	Ice Hockey Systems, Inc subscription	Dec 3, 2024	Jun 1, 2025	Not started	Purchase and set up email addresses once teams established
Michael Harrington	Contact PAHL regarding at 16U girls division	Jan 23, 2025	Feb 27, 2025	In progress	
Michael Harrington	Purchase goalie sticks, youth skates and helmets	Jan 23, 2025	Feb 1, 2025	In progress	Goalie stick and skates purchased, helmets backordered
Rachael Ours	Contact Stacey regarding ice for Timbit, Spring Little Pens, Tryouts	Jan 23, 2025	Apr 4, 2025	Completed	Timbit sessions scheduled, registration opens 4/21
Bob Catalde	Follow up with Ferraris, Zapolski for skills offerings	Jan 23, 2025	Apr 2, 2025	Completed	registration open
Person	Purchase larger pants for try hockey events	Feb 27, 2025	Date	Not started	
Rachael Ours	Minor updates (formatting, including missing definitions) to bylaws	Jan 23, 2025	Date	In progress	



Action Items

👤 Assignee	📄 Item	📅 Date Started	📅 Date Due	📌 Status	Comments
Alex Luddy	skills list repository	Dec 3, 2024	Date	Not started	for 25-26 season
Person	Contact individual coaches for content ideas for website prior to next meeting	Dec 3, 2024	Date	Not started	
Dave Schumacher	new credit card for EYHA	Feb 27, 2025	Date	Not started	
DS/RO	Add photo release for social media & website to 25-26 registrations	Feb 27, 2025	Apr 11, 2025	Completed	Draft language included for April meeting
SD/PM	Follow-up regarding "over budget" for house select teams	Apr 2, 2025	Date	Not started	Clarify "over budget by \$400" for house select team for NP
Person	Advertisement during 50/50 shifts	Apr 2, 2025	Date	Not started	For 25-26 season

Next Meeting: April 24, 2025